



FAQs – Adaptation of certificates in line with the EU as of 2 May 2022

Date:

27 April 2022

At its meeting of 27 April, the Federal Council decided that COVID recovery certificates can in future also be issued on the basis of a positive rapid antigen test. Because of new rules in the EU, these certificates will be recognised internationally.

1. What's new?

Have you tested positive with a rapid antigen test in Switzerland after 1 October 2021? Now you can also have an EU-compatible COVID recovery certificate issued based on this test. After your positive rapid antigen test result, test centres can give you your COVID certificate directly or send it to your COVID Certificate app. If you choose the second option, first provide the test centre with your individual transfer code from the COVID Certificate app.

Under Swiss validity rules, the certificate is valid for 180 days, the same as the period of validity defined by the EU for COVID recovery certificates. The certificate is valid from the 11th day after the positive rapid antigen test result and remains valid for 180 days after the test result.

2. Where can I apply for the COVID certificate retrospectively?

From 2 May 2022 you can also have a COVID recovery certificate issued on the basis of a rapid antigen test.

Contact the test centre that did your rapid antigen test and ask them whether an authorised person can issue you with an EU-compatible COVID recovery certificate based on the primary documentation.

If the test centre does not issue you with a COVID certificate, you can apply for one via the [National Application Office](#). It will be sent to you automatically by post. It can take a few days for you to receive the certificate.

3. My rapid antigen test was conducted abroad. Can I use it to apply for a recovery certificate in Switzerland?

It is not possible to apply for a COVID recovery certificate on the basis of a positive rapid antigen test conducted abroad.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication and Media Section, www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

4. I tested positive in October but the certificate is only valid for 180 days. Should I apply for a recovery certificate anyway?

The situation at the moment is that most countries set a maximum period of validity of 180 days for COVID recovery certificates. This means that a COVID recovery certificate issued on the basis of a rapid antigen test done in October cannot presently be used in most countries.

5. Can I travel with a recovery certificate?

There are now countries that also accept recovery certificates for entry. Even so, you must check each time before you travel what entry requirements apply in your destination country. You should also pay attention to a certificate's recognised period of validity.

6. Is the certificate valid anywhere?

The Swiss COVID certificate is compatible with the EU's Digital Covid Certificate (DCC) and can be used in travel between the countries that are part of the EU's DCC system. Even so, you must check each time before you travel what entry requirements apply in your destination country.

7. How long is my COVID certificate valid after a booster?

Even though the certificate requirement in Switzerland was lifted on 17 February 2022, a Swiss COVID certificate can still be used for travel abroad. The rules governing validity in your destination country apply. They may differ from Switzerland's rule that COVID certificates are valid for 270 days after a booster.

8. What should I do if my COVID certificate is about to expire?

You can have a booster if you haven't yet had one. After your booster you will be issued with a new COVID certificate that is valid for at least 270 days in many countries accepting the EU Digital COVID Certificate.

If you have already had a booster and need a COVID certificate e.g. for travel, it's worth finding out what rules on validity apply in your destination country.

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